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DTG: 031551Z SEP 83 PSN: 053918
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~~SECRET~~ BEIRUT 09728

DEPARTMENT PASS TO AMBASSADOR MCFARLANE
FROM COL GATANAS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, LE, IS, SY, XF, US

SUBJECT: MCFARLANE/FAIRBANKS MISSION: ADD-ON TO
GOL DESPAIR

1. ~~SECRET~~ ENTIRE TEXT.

2. COL QASSIS (G-2) JUST CALLED COL GATANAS REQUESTING
RESULTS OF WPENS-LEVY/FAIRBANKS-STINER MEETING AND ANY
OTHER INFORMATION. GATANAS WILL GET BACK TO HIM BUT
ASKED ABOUT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TH INCIDENT WHERE
BIQA AREA COMMANDER GENERAL MAKKARUM AND 400 MEN WERE
CAPTURED (REPORTED SEPTEL). QASSIS THINKS THIS IS SYRIAN
RESPONSE BY ACTION TO YESTERDAY'S GOL LETTER TO SARG.
HE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS ACTION IS SIGNIFICANT ALSO
BECAUSE IN THE PAST ONLY JUNIOR OFFICERS AND SMALLER
NUMBERS OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT WERE CAPTURED.

~~SECRET~~

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3. COL QASSIS ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE
"COMING DOWN THE HILL" AND DIDN'T GO INTO DETAILS ON THE
OPE 18,3. DILLON.

BT

SECRET

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TALKING POINTS FOR PHONE CALL TO
PRIME MINISTER BEGIN

- Menachem, I have just concluded a meeting with my national security advisers to review the crisis in Lebanon.
- Bud McFarlane has returned from the area and personally reported on the results of his diplomatic efforts.
- We have concluded that the fundamental and immediate problem is the Syrian determination to undermine the internal reconciliation process which we think has a chance.
- The Syrian willingness to do this has been amply demonstrated during the past week and will be heightened as the IDF withdrawals. Indeed, the spectre of further bloodshed and massacres will have extremely damaging implications for both our countries and we must do everything in our power to prevent it.
- The Government of Israel's agreement to delay its withdrawal has contributed to significantly to our mutual efforts to forge internal political reconciliation, especially between the Druze and the GOL. I am aware of your government's skepticism toward this process, but no stone must be left unturned.
- In the past day, a GOL-Druze plan has been jointly drafted and is being reviewed by Gemayel and Jumblatt. Progress is also being made to bring the Shi'ite leader, Nabih Berri into the government.
- The success of these efforts is crucial to our strategy. But we need five more days to conclude the process.
- I know that last Monday, Ambassador McFarlane said that the request for a delay was final. However, in view of the violent events of the past week and the successful performance of the Lebanese army, I must ask you and your government to consider an additional delay of the IDF redeployment.

- The Army is now concluding its operations in West Beirut, and has extended its activity into East Beirut to demonstrate it is an army of all the Lebanese people. However, the army will not physically be able to move into the Shuf for several more days. It is vital to the success of your redeployment that the LAF move into the Shuf in an orderly, coordinated fashion.
- I have concluded that this delay is crucial to the attainment of our mutual goals in Lebanon and I must request your personal cooperation on this matter.